

ABC 2000 - 4:50 A.M E.T - 6:04 A.M E.T

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k>)

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From Friday December 31st, 1999 ABC News coverage from around the world with Peter Jennings.

[00:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k)

[Music] around the world a celebration of the millennia this is ABC mm with Peter Jennings at ABC two thousand headquarters in Times Square Barbara Walters in Paris Diane Sawyer in New York Charles Gibson in London Cokie Roberts in Rome Elizabeth Vargas in Sydney Connie Chung in Las Vegas Deborah Roberts in Orlando Jack Ford in Times Square Carole Simpson in Chicago and Sam Donaldson at the y2k command center in Washington with our correspondent spanning the globe in Shanghai Bombay Bethlehem Moscow Havana Rio de Janeiro and across the u.s. reports from Miami New Orleans Tucson Los Angeles San Francisco and in New York Dick Clark counting down to the new year in Times Square special millennium performances by Billy Joel Elton John and Ricky Iglesias Faith Hill NSYNC fish the Bee Gees Aerosmith Blondie Bonnie Raitt Neil Diamond Harry Connick jr. Kenny G Ray Charles the Eagles Barry Manilow David Blaine and Barbra Streisand [Music] from ABC mm headquarters at Times Square in New York Peter Jennings good morning and welcome to the very edge of the 21st century good morning you hearty souls I should say it's a little before 5:00 a.m. here in Times Square earlier we you are we begin as you can imagine with a tremendous sense of awe from our studio overlooking Times Square here at what is behind this as well as what is ahead of us so for the next 24 hours we're going

[00:02:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=121s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=121s)

us so for the next 24 hours we're going to try to share this extraordinary occasion with much of the rest of the world and we're going to begin this morning in just a second by going to Tonga and to cured Abbas out in the Pacific where the first midnight of the 20th first century has actually come to be in just seconds but we're going to start with some news because just a short while ago in Russia Boris Yeltsin the president said he had decided he was going to resign earlier than he had intended so we're gonna go straight to Moscow as our first port of call and ABC's Morton Dean Morton what's been going on well a lot has been going on Peter Boris Yeltsin stole the headline right out of the old and new millennium in a surprise this morning and a taped address to the country he said he had signed papers transferring power to his chosen successor Vladimir's Putin the Prime Minister and mr. Yeltsin is stepping down Putin will become acting president for three months and then national elections are have been scheduled by mr. Yeltsin and his chosen successor for March the 26th quite a story was there any details about him did he look unusual did it look like it had been planned and it looked spontaneous well it obviously had been planned for a while but the news did not leak out here or obviously anywhere else Putin is not widely known in this country nor around the world of course he was a member of the KGB for many years and was head of the KGB's principle successor agency the FSB for a while and he's only been Prime Minister for four and a half months and we're told that both Yeltsin and Putin are behind me and one of the buildings there in the Kremlin meeting even as we speak Peter and let me just see if I can get it absolutely straight this is a resignation or this is him saying he intends to resign earlier than he'd planned well he says he's out of power as of today it's a resignation okay thanks very much more we'll come back to

[00:04:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=240s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=240s)

thanks very much more we'll come back to you as the day goes on of course Russian law actually requires presidential elections within 90 days of a resignation so that country is going to be on the edge of turmoil for some considerable period of time further on the edge of turmoil we have on the phone was with us Michael McFaul from the Carnegie Endowment of international peace who watches Russia very closely a professor McFaul what do you think of what you here this morning well it's stunning of course it's very true to form for Boris Yeltsin of course to steal the headlines on the Millennium I think it's not surprising that if you think about the politics behind it his Prime Minister mr. Putin right now has a seventy percent approval rating 55% of the population have said they'd vote for him on her first round and Yeltsin calculated it's better to go for it now than to wait six months when those ratings might fall okay thank you very much we'll talk to you I hope little later throughout the day Michael McFaul from the Carnegie Endowment just a couple of other headlines before we get right down to Millennium News India says it has reached an agreement to bring that hijacking in southern Afghanistan to an end that jetliner is still on the ground at Kandahar but the hijackers have reportedly agreed to release their 150 556 hostages in exchange for three Muslim militants who are in Indian custody so everybody's holding their breath on the subcontinent India later in the day where they too will celebrate the Millennium but let us now go and have a look at Kira bus in the Pacific the closest island this morning to the International Dateline the first celebration out there on the beaches of this island with so much so much deep commitment in American history let's listen [Music]

[00:06:09 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=369s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=369s)

[Music] says parabati under screen but it's actually pronounced kira bas these are actually the Gilbert Islands in the Pacific well known to many Americans who fought there during World War 2 the capital Tarawa where more than a thousand Americans were killed in a 2200 wounded as American forces made their way across the Pacific towards the Japanese home islands Carabosse as you can see moved the International Dateline about a year ago to include all of the islands in the island nation but something they must clearly have had in mind was the Millennium because they call the small island on which this ceremony this morning is taking place millennium islet man [Music] [Applause] [Music]

[00:08:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=480s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=480s)

[Music] it's hard to emphasize how hard the people of these Pacific Islands have worked aware as they were that they were going to be the first to pass into the 21st century first the first midnight and ultimately the first dawn and as I said this is a place with a tremendous place in American history in 1943 the Japanese never believed that a million men could take this tiny collection of atolls about two-thirds of the way across the Pacific and the battle went on for four days and as we said more than a thousand Americans were killed and 2200 or wounded Japanese had 5000 men on the island and when the battle was over only 17 had survived today they look at the new century in a moment of peace [Music] on your left you see Tonga in two-thirds of the way from Hawaii to New Zealand they too are in this red zone this is sometimes regarded as the most Christian nation in the world so the alleluia chorus will sound familiar [Music]

[00:10:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=600s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=600s)

[Applause] [Music] that's the king you see they're conducting the semi King Tahu for how to power who's been King since 1965 [Music] [Applause] [Music] and those fireworks are in Sydney Harbour Australia beneath the Sydney Harbour Bridge as Australia gets ready to celebrate the new millennium ABC's Elizabeth Vargas is there for us not very far from the famous Sydney Opera you can see the sales of its outline there on one side is that the Harbour Elizabeth a lot of people Oh Peter there's a huge crowd here good morning from the oldest continents on earth and the first major landmass along with New Zealand to welcome in the second millennium we have our lights out now because the first celebration the first fireworks as you can see are being launched three hours before midnight here in Sydney Harbour and as you said we are alongside via Opera House the most famous landmark in Australia with well over a million people gathered here along the harbour to watch the show okay we'll be back to you as you said in

[00:12:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=720s)

okay we'll be back to you as you said in several hours before it's going to be midnight let's go back to Kira bus [Music] they are dancing in the 21st century in Carabosse the first midnight has come and the first midnight has gone kara bawson Tonga the first two people to celebrate their entry to the 21st century and you saw down there at the corner an island that is somewhat threatened because if global warming gets any worse this is one of the islands in the world that will disappear beneath the sea the people paddled out to this island from their capital and now they go to the ocean to salute the future and pay respect to the Polynesian gods [Music] and perhaps a quick look at what's happening on Tonga as well [Music]

[00:14:03 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=843s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=843s)

[Music] we are part of an enormous a consortium put together by the thinnest of electronic breeds at time so Tonga has gone away briefly but before the end of the day as we watch this old man and a young boy paddle fire to the gods of the sea in an outrigger canoe which you see all over the Pacific part of the Polynesian people who who explored all over the Pacific thousands of years ago as they carry this tribute to the sea we prepare to go around the world electronically from Kiribati New Zealand Australia and China to Hong Kong and then across to Europe and out to the subcontinent where we believe that hijacking will be resolved today and then back to Moscow where they've got a major news story on on their hands as well and and before the day is over all across the length and breadth of the United States to celebrate the 21st millennium and we'll check from the very outset here in just a couple of minutes to see how things are going with y2k Sam Donaldson is standing by in Washington and Jimmy Walker is out there in New Zealand so when we come back we'll get going again hope you'll stay with us this is ABC 2000 the celebration of the millennium brought to you by NicoDerm CQ the power to call the power to comfort the power to help you quit and by Acuvue contact lenses vision for the new millennium [Music]

[00:16:03 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=963s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=963s)

you abc2 live from around the world once again from Times Square Peter Jennings Time Square looks a little bit like the celebration has already begun in fact we were out there pretty early this morning and some people have actually come to Times Square in the rain and set up seats for a celebration that will not start for almost 16 or 17 hours from now we shall be here but we shall be drier though the weather forecast for the eastern United States says rain until noon and then clearing up but it is raining in Paris and we'll get to Paris and Barbara Walters in just a moment and it is very cold in the Vatican there's st. Peter's Basilica we'll be there in a short while to talk to Cokie Roberts and before long that place will be absolutely mobbed by people from all over the world and there which is a little bit less recognizable to many

[00:20:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1200s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1200s)

little bit less recognizable to many people is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and manger square in Bethlehem where it is a beautiful day today and we shall be there before long to hear some word from Bethlehem that a lot of the talk about terrorism has kept crowds down around the world but we all know a little later on in the day as to whether or not people have been or crowds of being subdued particularly and Vatican and at at Bethlehem let's go back to the Pacific now because though we're waiting to celebrate in the Chatham Islands just south of New Zealand I think Kiera bas is still going as an old man and a young boy take their gift of fire out to the sea the celebration moves to New Zealand to the Chatham Islands just to the southeast of gnu's Island about 800 miles from the mainland these are two islands Chatham and Pitt right down there in the lower corner of your screen and which not a great deal happens except farming New Zealand famous for its sheep among other things though a lot closer to the rest of the world now in the internet revolution but the first inhabitants here on Chatham Island were as we saw on Kerr Abbas and in Tonga were Polynesians searching around the Pacific to make their home on a variety of these quite lovely but not profoundly productive islands ABC's James Walker is in Wellington New Zealand New Zealand I guess you'd have to say today is the canary in the coal mine actually is one Australian or New Zealand the paper put it because it is there where the world is going to watch first for the y2k developments Jim are you there this morning James Peter you took the words right out of my mouth it is indeed the canary in the mine

shaft the first industrialized country in about 40 48 50 minutes to welcome the new year and then we will see whether or not it also welcomes the millennium bug let me just set the stage for a second behind me is the beehive part of the Parliament Buildings wreck right here in

[00:22:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1321s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1321s)

Parliament Buildings wreck right here in Wellington it is the home of the Prime Minister and other members of her government on the first floor is the y2k government Commission in the basement is Emergency Management which has ties to 300 utilities hospitals police stations and we'll be monitoring them throughout the night y2k government commission will be giving us briefings the government officials here are are very confident they say that the key sectors they believe will work water utilities telephones but when it comes to y2k there are no guarantees as you as you know Peter information technology statistics indicate that 14% of all computer code that has been fixed still has the y2k bug in it so there are no bets we won't really know until we get there okay James we'll come back to you very shortly - because as you said it's the canary in the mine it's it's a guinea pig for many American companies particularly who do who do business in New Zealand and throughout the Pacific but while we're waiting for the Chatham Islands to enable us to share in their ceremony want to just walk around Europe very quickly Cokie Roberts is in Vatican City and looking a little less cold kokia than you did a little while ago but it is cold in Rome today it's very cold in Rome and a lot of these pilgrims who are here from all over the world are a little surprised at that but they are here from all over the world Peter and behind me now it's 11 o'clock in the morning here and behind me there are hundreds of people lining up to get in through the holy door at st. Peter's the millennium really began here on December 24th when the Pope started the Jubilee year the great Jubilee they happen every 25 years but he's deemed this one great because it is the 2000 year and he opened the holy door of midnight mass on Christmas Eve and people have been lining up to go through it ever since and they're already here by the hundreds this morning thank ok we'll make contact letter later we have

[00:24:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1440s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1440s)

we'll make contact letter later we have made contact with the Chatham Islands so let's listen to their celebration they're about a minute from midnight speaking of hope shines brightly in the minds of the children of the new millennium the spotlight shines directly into the eyes of world leaders but words are not appropriate at this time because the actions of man today we're by the children of all nations can truly receive the dividends in their time from peace and harmony brotherhood of man and environmental care you see a modesty in this ceremony that you see in lots of places throughout the world today [Music] [Applause] before they had their first midnight in the Chatham Islands not many people live there but they share the sentiment surely of people all over the world that the 21st century is going to be good for those young children 39 timezones there are in the world we've now been through two of them one happened to be on the quarter hour but for the local people there it's midnight and that's what matters and our Millennium coverage will continue

[00:26:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1561s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1561s)

[Music] you

[00:28:52 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1732s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1732s)

ABC mm continues live from around the world once again Peter Jennings at Times Square and it's a been midnight in a couple of places out in the Pacific and so the world is just beginning to flex its first 21st century muscles will continue to do that just for a little while now by going first to Paris and saying good morning to Barbara Walters good morning Barbara good morning Berlin a happy New Year to you Peter I am right across as you can see from the Eiffel Tower where for the past excuse me a thousand days they have been counting down the days now they are counting down the hours you see the the J is for sure at 13 hours until midnight of online before the year 2000 and at midnight you are going to see the most spectacular view of

the Eiffel Tower 20,000 lights are going to light it up fireworks that are going to climb a thousand feet in the air swirling and dancing and twirling they say there's ever been fireworks like this before on the Champs-Élysées which is the main Boulevard here in Paris there are 11 different Ferris wheels that are also

[00:30:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1801s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1801s)

different Ferris wheels that are also going to be whirling and twirling with acrobats and dancers and you can see some of them now they will only be here for one day they start at midnight and then it all ends the Paris that we know has always been a city of light but Peter it will never be as bright and as glittery as it will be tonight it's raining now it's been cold and raining every day people are already lined up here at the Eiffel Tower and after days of storms is a feeling of excitement and the fact that it's really going to be a glorious night six o'clock Eastern Time three o'clock Pacific time midnight here and with 13 hours away well I'm good at bound to say Barbara say it now you look absolutely gorgeous but the weather behind you looks horrible and you've had terrible storms in France particularly in the last several days but a lot of people killed there have been more than 80 people killed the storm started on Sunday as you've walked down the streets if you go down Avenue des Champs-Élysées for example which is the residential area it looks as if a hurricane hit with trees all over the street the knot Saddam has has been damaged windows were blown out even parts of the structure we went to Versailles where the gardens are now closed you can see the way it looks with some of the trees down Versailles itself was damaged but not inside the park lost some of its oldest trees 10,000 trees were destroyed Peter some of them 3 to 400 years old so it's been very very bad weather and today is certainly not not sunny and glorious but there are no storms and France is in a pretty cheerful mood it's been a good year for France so they will be celebrating tonight good barber look forward to seeing you before long thanks very much Barbara Walters outside the Eiffel Towers take a look out here at Times Square at the moment it is it's raining here too but even now it has begun to let up just a little and as I said people have already come to the square this morning and have set up seats the police have transformed this

[00:32:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1920s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=1920s)

seats the police have transformed this there's going to be no interference as far as they're concerned with any celebrations here but they've they've transformed it into a whole series of little islands that will explain it to you as the day goes on because New York has has already planned quite a celebration of its own but still ahead for us is the white you

[00:40:12 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=2412s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=2412s)

[Music] BC 2005 from around the world once again from Times Square in New York Peter Jennings well there's a small example of how the world has changed as the Omar mosque in Bethlehem the place where the Gospels say that Jesus was born and we'll go there in just a minute and I'm not sure that your local news actually dealt with it but a couple of headlines here Boris Yeltsin has resigned as president of Russia that means technically speaking there should be an election in Russia within 90 days and it looks very much like India and the hijackers of that Indian Airlines Airbus have reached an agreement and that there's going to be an exchange of passengers for three either militants in favor of an independent Kashmir we think that's what it is and the passengers are going to be exchanged before the day is over so we get a great shock at the beginning of the 21st century with Boris Yeltsin announcing that he's going to step down and make way for the man who's currently Prime Minister Prime Minister Putin who has very much on edge and everybody else and the good news which comes out of southern Afghanistan that that horrible siege for the people on that plane may within hours be over will be going off to New Zealand and and Washington in just a couple of minutes to get some of the first y2k news but we want to go way back at history now to manger square in Bethlehem where ABC's Bill Blake board is standing just outside that little door you can see down there at the bottom right-hand corner of your picture which is actually how people get in to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre itself and go Blakemore is there good morning bill good morning Peter actually the Church of the Nativity

[00:42:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=2522s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=2522s)

I'm sorry no problem it's unusually hot here today 77 degrees here in manger squirts very often at this time of year of cold and rainy even snowy but the very hot weather has produced what is just like a shirtsleeve day here sunny weather very few Christian pilgrims so far this morning making their way and we can't tell yet whether the security warnings have indeed kept them away we'll find that out maybe this evening the Friday noon prayers have just broken up here the mosque of Omar of course just across manger square from the Church of the Nativity behind me the Church of the Nativity as you know of course is built over the cave where tradition says that Jesus was born 2,000 years ago making this in a sense ground zero for the year 2000 and we're just by coincidence halfway around the earth it's just after noon here and so it will be this evening before we see any celebrations but the interesting thing here today Peter is that by coincidence it's a day of great importance for all three of the Abrahamic religions the religions that stem back to Abraham the Jews of course start their Sabbath's this evening when the Sun Goes Down it's the last Friday of Ramadan for the Muslims and many of the Muslims from throughout the West Bank today have gone into Jerusalem because for the first time the Israelis have lifted the requirements that there would be special permission during Ramadan to go in and pray there and of course the Christian millennium moving into the third millenium tonight there's a certain sense of heightened tension here because of all of these different religious feelings of importance today and the Israeli and Palestinian police are on heightened security Bo let me just before I ask you what the Palestinian Authority plans Ramadan of course is a month of fasting for Muslims throughout the world they fast from dawn until sundown and party sometimes quite extravagantly after dark at night but the Palestinian Authority which now controls Bethlehem has what planned for later today well they're going to have a concert they're going to have a number of singers and a film festival of Palestinian filmmakers this evening as

[00:44:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=2641s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=2641s)

Palestinian filmmakers this evening as midnight approaches there's going to be a special lighting of candles here in the square and then the releasing of two thousand doves a symbol of peace most apt here of course because it is hoped by many here that the year 2000 will be a year of considerable making since the Israelis are now talking with the Syrians starting on Monday about what is going to happen between those two countries including possibly the disposition of the Golan Heights and the Israelis are still talking with the Palestinians and say that they hope by September to have palestinian-israeli peace established as well but there are mixed feelings on all sides here something has to be given up by everybody so as usual in the Middle East and especially here at the crossroads of three continents with three religions mixing it up together on a day like this there's a variety of feelings and expectations in hopes thanks very much bill we'll talk to you later in the day one piece of news related to the Russian news in Moscow this morning the Russians have just announced that the Acting President Vladimir Putin is going to be going to Bethlehem and to Jerusalem next week replacing mr. Yeltsin when I was talking to Bill Blakemore earlier on he said that was one of the first things they had asked because mr. Yeltsin had indeed plan to come but with that news in Moscow today Vladimir Putin gets a tremendous tremendous boost they've just had an election in Russia and many of the parties in the Russian parliament which were supported by the Kremlin or supported by the Kremlin was something of a mean and nasty election much meaner and much nastier than we are accustomed to in the United States but the pro-kremlin parties and the Pro Yeltsin parties the pro-putin parties the new prime minister now very much likely to be the next president of Russia have all done fairly well mr. Putin we'll be going to the Holy Land and we will continue our Millennium coverage in just a minute stay with BC in the world as the new millennium arrives Down Under still ahead Australia's pre-party direct from the Sydney Opera House Handel's Messiah from New Zealand plus the latest on what's really happening with y2k and

[00:46:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=2761s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=2761s)

on what's really happening with y2k and that's just this morning 2024 incredible hours continues [Music] you [Music] you

[00:50:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=3000s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=3000s)

ABC mm continues live from around the world once again Peter Jennings well it's 5:30 in the morning in New York City it's 5:30 in the evening in Bangkok it's 7:40 in the evening in Tokyo in the Pacific they're gonna have their Midnight's before we are a lot of people talking about buzz on this particular occasion where was the buzz well as we came to work early this morning through Times Square which New Yorkers are utterly convinced is the center of the universe I was surprised how many people that were who were here who weren't working but Jack Ford is working Jacky's down there good morning jack what are all these folks doing here Peter good morning the folks are starting to gather here although and talking to some police officers just recently they expressed some surprise over the fact that there weren't bigger crowds here yet that probably is attributable to the fact that although the forecast was for cool and dry we've got the cool part right but not the dry part right it's been raining throughout the course of the morning here starting to slow down now you can see behind me that there are significant police presence here crowds are starting to gather the police haven't yet begun shepherding the crowds into the spectator areas the so-called pens that they've set up here they indicated again in a conversation that there's no real timetable for that they'll just do it by feel when they look like the crowds beginning to gather and it makes sense to get them into those areas so the rain is keeping people away right now the rain is starting to let up a little bit and they're expecting as you said before perhaps as many as 2 million people out here the dropping of the ball is some 18 hours away but the crowds are starting to gather Peter we will have a chance by the way on television this morning to see the ball go up in about an hour and a half from now and Jack if I'm not mistaken having seen the weather forecast quite late last night this is going to be a dry and cool day before we're finished hopefully they'll get the dry part right soon Peter as I said it's just starting to let up a little bit now as you mentioned the ball is going to be up there it about seven o'clock or so

[00:52:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=3120s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=3120s)

up there it about seven o'clock or so Eastern Time will be chatting with some folks out here also talking with the designer of the ball from Waterford crystals so the festivities will be getting started and very briefly New York City has a whole panoply of events itself when are they going to start you know Peter they're supposed to get started officially at 6:30 this morning and there's an hourly event it includes things such as as Street Fair Theater dancers a great deal of events take place throughout the course of the day thanks very much Jack on the street nice to talk to you stay dry if you can when we come back the 21st century is about to begin in New Zealand right after local news in many cities stay tuned with our millennium coverage ABC mm live from around the world will continue in a moment you

[01:00:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=3602s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=3602s)

[Music] ABC mm continues live from around the world once again from Times Square in New York Peter Jennings good morning everybody or good morning again welcome back to our live coverage of the century change in a moment we're going to go to New Zealand where the first industrial country in the world will enter in the 21st century and we'll get our first taste of what y2k is doing if anything to the technological base there but before that we want to check in on London where ABC's Charlie Gibson is standing by and who's usually up at this time of day in this city London seems to have had a few problems over there this morning or in the last couple of days about getting ready for its millennium coverage well there have been glitches Peter with some of the new things that have been built in London for the millennium and of course the British are a querulous lot and so they have been arguing about exactly what's going to be going on here but you know I think Peter as this party that the world is throwing for itself on this dawn of the new century and the new millennium goes on many cities will say we have the biggest or we have the grandest or we have the gaudiest a celebration and London can certainly make its claim because it's New Year celebration will be over such a wide area Peter up and down four miles of the Thames they're going to be celebrating with a giant firework show that I'll tell you about but of course this is also probably the most international city of the world and so there is such great concern that perhaps a party crasher will commit some untoward act and security is very tight as you look around the city this morning traffic has been shut down almost everywhere

indeed the City of London will be pretty much restricted to pedestrian traffic through this New Year's Eve now when I mentioned the big celebration that will go on up and down the Thames and you're seeing shots of the beautiful river that bisects the City of London for a four-mile stretch

[01:02:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=3720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=3720s)

City of London for a four-mile stretch Peter at midnight after the bells of Big Ben have struck midnight the twelve gongs at a height of two hundred feet they're going to blanket the Thames River for this four mile stretch with a series of rockets it will be as if the river is on fire and then they modestly say they're gonna have 15 minutes of the largest fireworks show in the history of the world as I say the British are always very modest about that hmm but we did you did mention the glitches and the preparations here in London number one they built at a cost of more than a billion dollars they built this Millennium Dome down in Greenwich and nobody's quite sure why they built it and then that's the Millennium Dome that you're seeing there it's it's reviving the Greenwich area of course which is the center of time but inside it's a it's a sort of show with lots of exhibits and there's a stage but Londoners really do scratch their head as to why it was worth spending a billion dollars over a billion dollars on this Millennium Dome and then you've got a peek at the London Eye this well they don't like to call it a ferris wheel because the the modules are enclosed but this is right on the south bank of the Thames Peter and I'm going to be interested to get your opinion of it ferris wheel by any other name Charlie well all right we'll stick with Ferris wheel Americans will relate to that but Peter it's 50 feet higher than Big Ben and the only thing I can really equate to it is in 1889 in Paris of course they built the Eiffel Tower and people were so shocked in Paris by that it was only supposed to be up for a few years and and of course it stands still this is only supposed to be up for five years here in London but it is really a rather majestic thing now of course people are supposed to start riding in it tonight well it doesn't work right Peter one of the modules doesn't rotate properly and so they're not going to be able to open it for three weeks or so but it is up here and to some Londoners

[01:04:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=3840s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=3840s)

but it is up here and to some Londoners it is an eyesore to some it is a thing of beauty I will let you be the judge this is your old city you give me your verdict well I was gonna say to you that I wonder how mr. Ferris would feel who designed the first wheel for what the Chicago exposition because you have a fabulous one there and they've got a whole collection of them up and down the shoals Alizee in Paris which we can see at the moment too I think they're 12 design on the shah's elesia and each one of them different but this is George Ferris as wheel for the kaga World Fair and I must tell you charlie as modern as yours looks it does indeed look like George ferris wheel in some shape or form there's a glimpse of one of them in the distance in Paris as well this morning Charlie you said very briefly there that we London would claim being the center of things being such an interesting place but also you want to take a quick back and you claim it because you are the standard of time sure just east of here on the Thames river is Greenwich which is at zero degrees longitude and it is the center of time it is where the official measurement of time has taken for the world indeed all of these midnight celebrations are really keyed to the official clocks which are in Greenwich okay well it's great to talk to you and we will talk to you a lot throughout the day there's big bands clearly I think I think surely the most famous clock in the world and we'd be talking all about clocks and times the importance of time and the relevance of time before the day is over but let us now go out to New Zealand because there in New Zealand they are about to be the first industrial country to become the center of time Lizabeth fargus is in the Pacific for us Lizabeth can you give us a handle first or what's happening in New Zealand well they've got a huge celebration planned in Auckland Peter with a record amount of fireworks that they're shooting up to the air Auckland of courses is known as the city of sails they're more sail boats per capita so they have a lot of people planning to be out on the water as well a lot of fireworks launched from barges and in fact from a small island off the coast of uh just right off the coast of Auckland called rangitoto which

[01:06:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=3961s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=3961s)

coast of Auckland called Rangitoto which interestingly enough at the turn of the last millennium wasn't even there it was caused by a volcanic eruption six hundred years ago barges attached to that island will be of course launching a lot of those fireworks Auckland will be of course the first major industrialized landmass to celebrate New Year's we will be celebrating shortly thereafter here at Sydney Harbor and the party is well underway here as well celebrations beginning well before midnight with again record-breaking crowds in both the Newseum and Australia thanks very much Elizabeth one of the people who's with us in New Zealand this morning along with James Walker is Susie Akin who's a reporter for TV and Zette as they called it we say Z but TVNZ television New Zealand can you hear me Susie I've really felt the energy level and the M and Beyond surround me and the boat horns as you can hear we've got 68 super yachts and this purpose-built America's Cup harbour behind me a concert going on New Zealanders are out to party and we are counting down the minutes we've got three minutes to go and it's hard not to get completely caught up it's exciting to be the first major city to see this in do you think that's our feeling at L throat using them it's not a very big place it's not a very big place but we've got about 3.8 million people but a very strong voice globally we hope and we're really looking forward to this new millennium for the very positive thing for us is to aim to preserve the planet so that's I think where our mission will be in the next years of here lovely to have you with us oozy that's listening for the official ceremony itself if the last two thousand years are worth anything it's because we can learn from them just for a second what legacy you will give to the future look around

[01:08:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=4081s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=4081s)

will give to the future look around right now look at your loved ones look at the strangers go on have a good look at those faces how to think what and how can I affect them in the future what will my legacy be for them and for those yet to be born for those yet to come okay I'm getting it through now ladies and gentlemen take a look at each other say goodbye and get ready to say hello we're at Auckland on the North Island of New Zealand the biggest city there just over two million people the Suzy said and largest television city in the world [Applause] here it comes like a few ladies watch closest big city in the world from the International Dateline wildly popular with people who visited indigenous people the Maori 's they represent a small part of the population but an enormous part of these events it's official 50 seconds let's have a look [Applause] [Music] [Applause] [Music]

[01:10:09 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=4209s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=4209s)

[Music] Auckland New Zealand the North Island that these two islands these two islands that the Polynesian settled on a richly in the South Pacific biggest city New Zealand's celebrating its future and past talk to someone there yesterday who I hope they'll talk to before the day is over in fact now Dennis Dutton an American who told us yesterday that he had moved to New Zealand from California and he thought he was never going to be heard of again and of course the world in which we now live the technological world the internet world has simply changed all that completely and he now sits there

[01:12:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=4320s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=4320s)

that completely and he now sits there connected to the rest of the world on his email [Music] soozee Akin if he had to describe New Zealanders attitude towards the 21st century what would it be I'm sorry could you repeat that please I said if you had to describe New Zealand attitudes towards the 21st century what would they be we're into clean and green we love our country we love our land our Maori our indigenous people have a very strong link with the land and I think how attitudes towards the next millennium is to really want to preserve it so that we can have it here for many generations to come we're very strong in terms of our ban on whaling and our driftnet fishing or ban on drooping fishing the Pacific the ecological and environment is very important to us so for all New Zealanders that's our paramount mission and the next millennium ahead these celebrations behind me are just going off it's really very exciting and a wonderful feeling to be in the new millennium and as all the technology make you feel more part of the world Susi definitely the in Tunisia's brought us closer globally and that's very important for New Zealand we're a trading nation we're a small island nation and I think we're going to step up firmly into the global network and global economy and that

will continue to grow over the next ten years that's the area that New Zealand wants to move into and the internet of course has made that possible for us so no more jokes about sheep in the 21st century sixty million sheep but hey we eat a lot of land than we export a lot of it turn big say we pull up to the States it's our first trade dispute in the 21st century between the United States and New Zealand on land but we'll forget it for tonight we will and that's between

[01:14:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=4442s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-N9TyAC2k&t=4442s)

for tonight we will and that's between the countries in our relationship between American citizens and New Zealand has always been a very friendly one so it's great to be talking to you tonight soon as we enjoy the fireworks Happy New Year thank you a might a few bubbles now [Music] the 21st century of New Zealand our coverage of the Millennium continues 1204 in Auckland Museum [Music] this is ABC mm the celebration of the millennium brought to you by autotrader.com the biggest best used car site on the planet add my polaroid see what develops [Music]

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